

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01
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-----260856 051992 /14
R 252215Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 556
INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO POUCH

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DEPT PASS ALL CCINC AGENCIES, INCLUDING HEW/NIDA
FOR DUPONT

EO 11652 : N/A
TAGS : SNAR MX
SUBJ : NARCOTICS - CHANGE IN DIRECTION UNDERWAY AT CEMEF

1. NEW DIRECTOR OF CENTRO MEXICANO DE ESTUDIOS EN FARMA-
CODEPENDENCIA (CEMEF), RAMON DE LA FUENTE, INVITED SPECIAL
ASSISTANT TO VISIT CEMEF FEB 17 FOR DISCUSSIONS ON
FUTURE CEMEF PLANS. IN LONG MONOLOGUE, DE LA FUENTE RE-
VIEWED CEMEF'S HISTORY AS INDEPTNDENT ORGANIZATION RE-
PORTING DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT'S STAFF WITH RESULTING
DUPLICATION OF ACTIVITIES BY CEMEF AND MINISTRY OF
HEALTH (MINHEALTH).

2. DE LA FUENTE, WHO ALSO HEADS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
OF MINHEALTH, SAID HE WAS GIVEN JOB AT CEMEF TO FACILI-
TATE MERGING OF TWO OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE MENTAL
HEALTH CLINICS OPERATED BY MINHEALTH AND THE DRUG
ABUSE COUNSELLING FACILITIES ESTABLISHED BY CEMEF.
HIS LONG-TERM PLAN, FOR WHICH HE GAVE NO TIMETABLE,
IS TO PROVIDE AN EXPERIENCED DRUG ABUSE COUNSELOR
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AT EACH OF EXISTING MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS AND TO
CONVERT EXISTING CEMEF CENTERS INTO ADDITIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS. HE JUSTIFIED THIS APPROACH
BY NOTING THAT CEMEF DRUG CENTERS ARE MOST FREQUENTLY
APPROACHED BY PEOPLE HAVING MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS
WHICH ARE NOT DRUG RELATED.

3. ACCORDING TO DE LA FUENTE, CEMEF WILL NOT ENTIRELY DISAPPEAR SINCE IT WAS CREATED BY PRESENTIAL DECREE. INSTEAD HE INTENDS TO SHIFT EMPHASIS FROM TREATMENT TO RESEARCH, CAPITALIZING ON WHAT HE CALLS AN EXCELLENT RESEARCH STAFF. HE IS ALSO CONSCIOUS OF CEMEF'S RESEARCH OBLIGATIONS TO WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, WHICH HE STATED WOULD BE MET.

4. DE LA FUENTE HOLDS SIMILAR VIEW OF MEXICO'S DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM AS HIS PREDECESSOR (GUIDO BELASSO), LISTING DRUGS OF ABUSE IN THE FOLLOWING DESCENDING ORDER OF PRIORITY: ALCOHOL, SOLVENTS, BARBITURATES, AMPHETAMINES, AND MARIJUANA, WITH COCAINE AND HEROIN APPEARING ONLY AS POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WHICH ARE NOT YET SERIOUS. HE AGREED THAT MEXICO CITY HAS MANY OF THE CONDITIONS WHICH ARE THOUGHT TO PROMOTE HEROIN ABUSE IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT NOTED THAT IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS THE FOUR CEMEF DRUG CENTERS IN MEXICO CITY RECEIVED A TOTAL OF TWO CLIENTS SEEKING HELP FOR A HEROIN PROBLEM. DE LA FUENTE PERSONALLY BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE "FAIR" NUMBER OF HEROIN ABUSERS IN MEXICO CITY BUT IS AT LOSS TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY NEVER SURFACE, EITHER IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM OR HOSPITALS AND OTHER CLINICS.

5. ACCORDING TO DE LA FUENTE, MARIJUANA USE IS PREVALENT DURING HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE YEARS BUT FALLS RAPIDLY TO INSIGNIFICANCE AS STUDENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GRADUATES INTO A PROFESSION. AT THAT POINT, HE FEELS, ALCOHOL USE AND ABUSE BECOMES SIGNIFICANT.

6. SPECIAL ASSISTANT NOTED THAT MEXICAN AND AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS ALONG BORDER CO-OPERATE CLOSELY AND THAT EMBASSY WAS PREPARED TO WORK WITH CEMEF IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL. DE LA FUENTE SEEMED RELATIVELY UNAWARE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THIS FIELD IN THE UNITED STATES.

7. RECOMMENDATION: MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE AUTHORIZED TO INVITE DE LA FUENTE TO WASHINGTON FOR EXECUTIVE-LEVEL ORIENTATION ON US DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS, POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION, AND POSSIBLE VISITS TO SEVERAL ACTIVE PROGRAMS. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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